

2011 Northwest Children’s Environmental Health Forum – We Stepped It Up Together!

Participants at the November 2011 Forum hosted by the Children's Environmental Health Working Group of the Collaborative on Health and Environment, Washington Chapter, resonated with keynote speaker, Dr. Howard Frumkin that *“health trends aren’t all easy to explain, but we share a conviction that children’s environments—their habitats—can make a difference.”* Dr. Frumkin’s speech further identified key and significant environmental issues driving home a need for further concern and collaborative action.

Dr. Frumkin and a diverse panel of ten experts in the children’s health field engaged with 125 participants in an open robust dialog sharing concerns and commitments to enhancing the environment and protecting children’s health. Small group discussions also provided excellent opportunities to share ideas, meet new partners, and identify collaborative activities to improve environmental health outcomes.

In his closing statement, Dr. Howard Frumkin delivered a thought-provoking request. He challenged all participants to a mental exercise, *“Imagine that our life expectancy is 500 years instead of less than 100. Would you live your life differently?”* His question focused participant discussions as they considered how to impact the very long-term vision of a sustainable, just, and healthy world for children.